



# George V. Voinovich

*United States Senator • Ohio*

## ***Career in Public Service***

### **1999 - Present**

- U. S. Senator for Ohio – 55<sup>th</sup> in the history of the State of Ohio. 14<sup>th</sup> Ohioan to serve as Governor Ohio and U.S. Senator. 2<sup>nd</sup> to serve as Mayor of Cleveland, Governor of Ohio and U.S. Senator.
- Occupies the Senate seat previously held by such notable Ohioans as John Glenn, Frank Lausche, Robert A. Taft and Salmon P. Chase.
- Senate Committee and Subcommittee assignments:
  - Committee on Environment and Public Works
    - Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure (Chairman)
    - Subcommittee on Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property & Nuclear Safety
  - Committee on Governmental Affairs
    - Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring and the District of Columbia (Chairman)
    - Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
  - Committee on Small Business
  - Select Committee on Ethics

### **1991 - 1998**

65th Governor of Ohio  
1997-98; Chairman, National Governors' Association (NGA)  
1996-97, Vice Chairman, NGA  
1993-98 Member, NGA Executive Committee  
1995-97, Chairman, Jobs for America's Graduates Program  
1993-95, Co-Lead Governor for Federalism, NGA  
1992-93, Chairman, Republican Governors Association  
1992-94, Chairman, Council of Great Lakes Governors  
1992, Chairman, Midwestern Governors Conference  
1992-93, Co- Chairman, NGA Task Force on Education  
1991-92, Chairman, NGA Education Action Team on School Readiness  
1991-92, Chairman, NGA Child Support Enforcement Work Group  
1991-92, Vice Chair, NGA Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety  
1991-98, Member, NGA Committee on Human Resources

### **1979 - 1989**

Mayor, City of Cleveland, Ohio  
Trustee, U.S. Conference of Mayors  
1985, President, National League of Cities  
1981-1989, Board Member, National League of Cities

### **1979**

Lieutenant Governor, State of Ohio

### **1977 - 1978**

Cuyahoga County Commissioner

### **1971 - 1976**

Cuyahoga County Auditor

### **1967 -1971**

Member, Ohio House of Representatives

### **1963**

Assistant Attorney General, State of Ohio

## ***As United States Senator***

George Victor Voinovich was elected to the United States Senate on November 3, 1998.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio on July 15, 1936, his distinguished career in public service dates back to 1963 when he was appointed assistant attorney general for the state of Ohio. He later served as a state representative, Cuyahoga County Commissioner, County Auditor and Lieutenant Governor of the state of Ohio. In 1979, he was elected Mayor of Cleveland, serving as mayor for 10 years. He was elected Governor of Ohio in 1990 and served for two terms.

Prior to being elected to the Senate, he had plenty of experience working on federal legislation of concern to Ohio. He was Chairman of the National Governors' Association, and he had a hand in shaping major legislative achievements including Welfare Reform, the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments, expanded health care coverage for children and transportation (ISTEA & TEA-21). Senator Voinovich is the only person to serve as Chairman of the National Governors' Association and President of the National League of Cities.

*"Abraham Lincoln once said 'the legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do for themselves, in their separate and individual capacities.' Those of us who have been given the privilege to serve the citizens of our great nation should remember these words and never forget the purpose for which we have been elected to serve."*

When he came to the Senate, Majority Leader Trent Lott asked Senator Voinovich to be his liaison to the nation's governors and mayors. In less than five months, he delivered on two major pieces of legislation on which he had campaigned for the benefit of state and local governments – the Education Flexibility Act (Ed-Flex), which allows states to spend federal education dollars on needs that they have identified, and tobacco anti-recoupment, which will prevent the federal government from taking any of the states' portion of the \$246 billion tobacco settlement.

His work has earned him praise from Majority Leader Lott, who in May, 1999, said *"Even though he's only been here a short time, he [Senator Voinovich] has destroyed the old adage that the first couple of years here [in the Senate] you should be seen and not heard. He's been very loud and vociferous, and he's done a great job..."*

Senator Voinovich brings to the Senate his vision of what it will take to move Ohio and the nation into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. By concentrating on four broad themes – fiscal responsibility, federalism, competitiveness and national security – Senator Voinovich is dedicated to making the federal government honor its commitments to its citizens, use taxpayer dollars more efficiently and bring continued growth to the economy.

In the Senate, he serves on four committees: the Environment and Public Works Committee, the Governmental Affairs Committee, the Small Business Committee and the Select Committee on Ethics. Senator Voinovich chairs two subcommittees – the only freshman Senator to do so.

As a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator Voinovich is chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee, which oversees the Federal Highway Administration, the Economic Development Administration, the General Service Agency's Public Buildings Service, the civil works program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Appalachian Regional Commission and the non-performing functions of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

As a member of the Committee on Governmental Affairs, Senator Voinovich is chairman of the Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring and the District of Columbia. Senator Voinovich's experience as a manager lends itself well to this subcommittee, where his mission is to ensure that the Federal Government has a well-managed, quality workforce and the taxpayers are getting the best "bang for the buck." Two of his priorities for the subcommittee are to address the overlap and duplication in government programs, and review

the extent to which government agencies are implementing “quality management” practices to improve service to the public.

## *As Governor of Ohio*

George V. Voinovich was elected governor in November 1990 and re-elected in 1994, garnering 72 percent of the vote — a 20th century Ohio record and the largest margin of victory in the United States in 1994 by a Republican candidate for governor.

The key element of his tenure and his vision — Ohio 2000/ Ohio First — was aimed at maintaining Ohio as a national leader and world-class competitor as America enters the new millennium. It focused on increased government efficiency, education reform, an improved business climate, and enhanced quality of life. It is already yielding positive results. Student test scores increased and are still increasing, and with the full implementation of Voinovich’s SchoolNet program, 21<sup>st</sup> century computer technology will be available in all Ohio classrooms.

*a “Gone are the days when public officials are measured by how much they spend on a problem. The new realities dictate that public officials are now judged on whether they can work harder and smarter, and do more with less.”* Inaugural Address, January 14, 1991

Under Voinovich, Ohio’s unemployment rate fell to a 25-year low, more than 500,000 new jobs were created and Ohio was ranked first in the nation by Site Selection magazine for new and expanded business facilities. Voinovich held Ohio’s budget to its lowest growth rate in 30 years, while dramatically increasing state support for programs that help children, families, and older Ohioans. At the same time, he reduced welfare rolls by more than 362,000 — a 55% drop during his two terms as governor — by eliminating General Assistance and leading the nation in providing training to move people off welfare.

During the Voinovich years, Ohio became known as a “benchmark” state. The Ohio “Family and Children First” initiative is regarded as one of the nation’s premier school readiness models. Under Voinovich, Ohio leads the nation in state support of and the number of eligible children enrolled in Head Start. Voinovich’s Quality Services through Partnership program has been hailed as the best workplace quality initiative for state government in the United States.

Voinovich also parlayed leadership roles in regional and national organizations of governors into tangible benefits for the people of Ohio. He led the successful nationwide campaign by state and local governments which prompted the passage of legislation to curb unfunded federal mandates. His active leadership on National Governors’ Association initiatives regarding school readiness and child support enforcement resulted in dramatic improvements in both areas in Ohio. And, during his chairmanship of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, he directed a number of initiatives that strengthened Ohio’s competitiveness in the global economy.

Because of his dedication to the citizens of Ohio, and his effectiveness at getting the best out of people, Governing magazine named him “Public Official of the Year” for 1995.

## *As Mayor of Cleveland*

With his hometown on the brink of financial ruin, George Voinovich returned to Cleveland from his post as lieutenant governor and was elected mayor in 1979. In a city where Democrats outnumber Republicans eight to one, Voinovich served for 10 years and when he left office, he held the distinction of being Cleveland’s longest-serving mayor in its history.

The National Urban Coalition named Voinovich as one of four distinguished urban mayors in America. The

National Journal called him “one of five local and state officials who make a difference in Washington.” City and State magazine selected him as one of the top three mayors in the United States and named him to its “All-Pro Management Team.” And, in 1985, his peers elected him president of the National League of Cities.

### ***As Lieutenant Governor***

In 1978, Voinovich was elected lieutenant governor under Governor James A. Rhodes. As lieutenant governor, Voinovich was the first chairman of Ohio’s State and Local Government Commission, which promotes stronger cooperation among government officials in the state.

### ***The Early Years in Public Service***

During his earlier years as Cuyahoga county commissioner, county auditor, and state representative, George Voinovich exhibited the same results-oriented leadership that he’s known for today.

*As Cuyahoga County Commissioner:* Voinovich’s election ended 44 years of one-party control of the County Commissioner’s Office. Upon taking office, he implemented a number of changes to cut costs, improve efficiency, and operate the office more like a business.

*As Cuyahoga County Auditor:* Voinovich conducted the first-ever management audit of Cuyahoga County offices. A leader among his peers, he led the battle to overhaul Ohio’s real estate appraisal laws and eliminated unvoted, noncharter real estate taxes. His pioneering initiative to bring about computer-assisted mass appraisal of residential and small commercial properties earned him the “Outstanding Public Service Award” from the National Association of County Officials.

*As State Representative:* As a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, Voinovich introduced 85 bills that became law. He established himself as a leader in protecting the environment, acting as a prime mover in the creation of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the cessation of oil drilling in Lake Erie. Voinovich has also been called the father of Ohio’s Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption, which extended property relief to older Ohioans.

*As Ohio Assistant Attorney General:* Voinovich headed the Trial Section of the Workman’s Compensation Division, located in Cleveland.

### ***Personal Information***

Born : July 15, 1936 in Cleveland

Spouse: Janet (Allan) Voinovich of Lakewood, Ohio

Children: George, Betsy and Peter. Their youngest child, Molly, was the victim of a fatal traffic accident at the age of nine. They have two granddaughters.

### ***Education***

Ohio University, 1958, Bachelor of Arts in Government

Ohio State University, College Of Law, 1961, Juris Doctor

Ohio University, 1981, Honorary Doctorate of Law

University of Findlay, 1993, Honorary Doctorate of Public Administration